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Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations: cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Letter dated 18 October 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In response to the misstatement against my country made by the representative of the Republic of Armenia on 14 October 2004 during the plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development, the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, exercising its right of reply under article 73 of the Rules of Procedure, would like to draw the attention of the Assembly to the following facts:

(a) The ethnic cleansing committed by Armenia against its own citizens of Azerbaijani origin began in 1987, when hundreds of Azerbaijanis were expelled from the Armenian cities of Yerevan, Kafan, Masis, Gugark, Dilizhan, Sisian and Kirovakan. As a result of these cleansings, 220 people were killed and 1,154 people were wounded. After these acts of killing and expulsion, the whole Azerbaijani population of Armenia, whose ancestors used to live in that country for centuries, were forced to leave Armenia. By 1993, the Azerbaijani minority of Armenia ceased to exist. Thus, Armenia became a mono-ethnic State, while in Azerbaijan, there are some 20,000 Armenians still living in the country beyond the territory of the Nagorny Karabakh region;

(b) Later, the ethnic cleansings continued in the territory of Azerbaijan. As a result of the Armenian aggression, 18,000 civilians were killed, more than 50,000 were wounded or disabled, 1 million people became refugees and internally displaced persons and 4,959 persons have been declared missing;

(c) As a result of the Khojaly genocide, when the Azerbaijani town of Khojaly, with a population of approximately 7,000 people, was attacked by Armenian military units on the night of 25 to 26 February 1992, 613 persons were

massacred including 106 women, 83 children and 70 elderly persons and 1,275 civilians were taken hostage. The fate of 150 of those hostages is not known to this day;

(d) Today, Armenia makes attempts to consolidate the results of this unprecedented mass-scale ethnic cleansing campaign and to settle the Armenian population in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, thus artificially creating a new demographic situation. Armenia brings new settlers not only to the Nagorny Karabakh region, but also to other occupied regions of Azerbaijan around Nagorny Karabakh. This policy constitutes another blatant violation by Armenia of international law, in particular, the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and the Additional Protocols thereto (art. 49 of the Convention and art. 85 of the first Additional Protocol, which prohibit the deportation or transfer of parts of the civilian population by an occupying Power into the territory it occupies).

Azerbaijan will never reconcile itself to the occupation of its territories, the violation of its territorial integrity and the results of ethnic cleansings. Azerbaijan once again stresses that the settlement of the conflict should be based only on international law and the implementation of Security Council resolutions 822 (1993), 853 (1993), 874 (1993) and 884 (1993), not on ethnic cleansing and the de facto annexation of the territory of a sovereign State.

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter urgently circulated as a document of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 45 and 56 (n).

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Permanent Representative